

In the claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended)

1. A shoulder pad accessory arm pad, comprising:

(a) an elongated padded member defining first and second opposite ends, the padded member being constructed and arranged for disposal ~~therein of~~ on an arm of a wearer, to protect the arm from injury;

(b) means for attaching the first end of the padded member to a shoulder pad of the wearer; and

(c) means for attaching the second end of the padded member to the arm of the wearer, to secure the padded member to the arm of the wearer;

the padded member comprising a foam pad having first and second ends, first attachment means at the first end of the padded member, for attaching the arm pad to a portion of the shoulder pad of the wearer, and second attachment means at the second end of the padded member, for attaching the arm pad to the arm of the wearer, the thickness of the foam pad increasing continuously and uniformly from the first end to the second end of the foam pad.

Claims 2 – 8 (cancelled)

Please cancel claims 2 – 8.

SUMMARY OF THE OFFICE ACTION

Claims 1 – 8 are pending in the application.

Claims 1 – 8 are rejected.

The drawings filed on 18 August 2003 are objected to by the Examiner.

THE CLAIMED INVENTION

The present invention provides a shoulder pad accessory arm pad, to protect an upper arm of a wearer from injury. The arm pad comprises (a) an elongated padded member defining first and second opposite ends, the padded member being constructed and arranged for disposal therein of the arm of the wearer, to protect the arm from injury; (b) means for attaching the first end of the padded member to a shoulder pad of the wearer, to secure the first end of the padded member to the shoulder of the wearer; and (c) means for attaching the second end of the padded member to the arm of the wearer, to secure the padded member to the arm of the wearer.

The padded member comprises a foam pad having first and second ends, first attachment means at the first end of the padded member, for attaching the arm pad to a portion of the shoulder pad of the wearer, and second attachment means at the second end of the padded member, for attaching the arm pad to the arm of the wearer. The thickness of the foam pad increases continuously and uniformly from the first end to the second end of the foam pad.

SCOPE OF THE PRIOR ART CITED BY THE EXAMINER

In rejecting claims 1 – 8, the Examiner cites U.S. Patents Numbers 4,654,893; 4,467,475; and 5,911,197.

U.S. Patent Number 4,654,983 to Meyers et al. discloses a shoulder pad brace having a pair of shock-absorbing saddle assemblies and cups for protecting the acromioclavicular and glenohumeral joints. Each saddle assembly includes a resilient, ring-shaped member for seating over and conforming to its respective acromioclavicular joint. The cups overlie each saddle assembly, and form a shock-absorbing air space over each saddle assembly. Additionally each cup includes anterior and posterior portions for protecting the front of the glenohumeral joint, and the back of the scapula, respectively. Each saddle assembly includes an upper arm pad which is attached to its respective saddle by means of an omni-directional hinge joint.

U.S. Patent Number 4,467,475 to Gregory et al. discloses a protective apparatus for the upper body. The protector comprises a semi-rigid integral upper body shield having a chest plate portion, a back plate portion, and shoulder plate portions, adapted to conformably embrace the chest, back and shoulders, respectively. A pair of shoulder flaps are hingedly connected to the upper body shield so that the shoulder flaps are superposed over the shoulder portions, the shoulder flaps being movable laterally in an arcuate path between an uppermost position and a lowermost position. A shoulder cap or epaulet is hingedly connected to each shoulder flap. Locking means is associated with the shoulder portions and the shoulder flaps for locking each shoulder flap in a fixed lowermost position so that the force of a downward impact on each shoulder flap is diffused, thereby reducing the force exerted on the wearer's shoulder. Also included is restraining means hingedly interconnecting the shoulder flaps to the shoulder portions for restraining the shoulder flaps and epaulets from pressuring the wearer's shoulder when a shoulder flap is in the uppermost position as a result of a lateral impact. A method of constructing the protector is included.

U.S. Patent Number 5,911,197 to Schmid discloses a canine training device. The device protects a helper's hand and arm while training a dog to bite and hold the arm of a human. The canine training device includes a sleeve which fits over the helper's arm and

is shaped to correspond to the shape of the helper's forearm and hand. A bite bar is secured to an exterior surface of the sleeve, and has a substantially wedge-shaped cross-section. A cover is arranged over the sleeve and the bite bar for grasping by the dog. The training device also includes a separate upper arm guard which is secured to the arm of the helper and covers the upper arm from the shoulder to the elbow. The bite bar is preferably adjustable on the sleeve to achieve different presentation angles for different wearers.